

U.S.S.N. 09/625,963

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**In the Claims**

1. (Three times amended) A peptide having at least [8] 9 but fewer than 100 amino acids, which peptide comprises [an] the amino acid sequence [selected from the group consisting of] RMFPNAPYL (SEQ ID NO:1)[; a peptide comprising at least six consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1, and variants thereof wherein the side chains of one or two to the amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1 are altered].

44. (Amended) The peptide of claim 1 consisting of from [8] 9 to 12 amino acids.

Please cancel claims 6, 19, 43, and 46-48.

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 15, 44 and 45 are pending. Claims 1 and 44 have been amended. Claims 6, 19, 43, and 46-48 have been canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 44 can be found, for example, at page 9, line 10 (minimum peptide length) and page 7, line 15 (peptide has fewer than 100 amino acids).

The present invention is directed to CTL recognized peptide epitopes. The claimed peptides are processed so that a fragment (at least the minimal sequence recognized by the CTL) is produced which is able to bind to an appropriate MHC molecule and be presented by a cell to elicit a suitable T cell response.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 4-6, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being enabled. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.